



SUGAR PLANTATIONS



OAHU SUGAR COMPANY MAKES FINE SHOWING WITH AMPLE WATER SUPPLY

Reports Rendered at Meeting Today Will Give Stockholders Much Cause For Satisfaction—Big Crops Coming From Now On

Oahu Sugar Company is rapidly coming forward as the ultimate biggest sugar producer of the Hawaiian Islands. Its next year's crop is estimated at 42,500 tons and each year for several years to come the company will have an increased acreage, aided by the ample flow of water from the Waiahole tunnel project, the complete success of which, even under abnormally dry conditions has been demonstrated.

Stockholders of the Oahu Sugar Company and the Waiahole Water Company will hold their annual meetings this morning at the offices of Harkfeld & Company. At that time reports will be presented which will show the splendid condition of the company after a highly prosperous year and the promise of more in 1918 and still greater growth to come in the future years.

As against an estimated crop of 35,000 tons in 1917 and an actual output of 37,470.37 tons for the year, the manager, E. K. Bull, in the report which he will present to the stockholders this morning will show an estimated crop of 42,500 tons for 1918, with 4800 tons already manufactured.

In 1917, the manager reports, the higher tonnage of cane required for a ton of sugar is explained by poorer qualities of juices from increased areas of cane of new varieties, and also from deterioration of cane damaged by the Anomala beetle.

Acreage Increased

This year the acreage is nearly 900 tons larger than last, but is cut twenty-four hundred acres of cane were attacked by the "eye-spot" disease and the leaf hopper and the cane had to be destroyed but this has been offset by increasing the area of short rotations. The crop of 1919 will be obtained from 6158 acres, a further increase in acreage of 110 acres. The planting was done earlier than usual and was finished August 6, 1917. About 700 acres, planted early in the season, were "cut back" in July. This cane is far advanced in growth and presents a fine appearance, the manager says. With but few exceptions all of the fields had a good start and should, with fair weather, give a good yield in 1919.

The crop of 1920 will be from an area of about 6000 acres and would have had a larger acreage but for the taking of Ford Island.

One of the most gratifying features of last year's operations is the fact that we have been able to complete the erection of an entire new mill and power plant, while we were taking off the largest crop we have ever harvested, an undertaking which, naturally has presented many difficulties," the report says. "Unexpected delays in the delivery of material and machinery, as well as the protracted grinding of last year's crop, due to continuous breakdowns and trouble with the old mill, made it impossible to get the new mill ready before the 25th of last December, when the taking off of the new crop was commenced. As is always to be expected, the initial operation of any new factory, there has been not a few matters of detail to adjust and remedy which have retarded harvesting to some extent during the past month; but on the whole the mill is extremely satisfactory, and gives every indication that it will come up to expectations. The capacity of the building, with the new additions and alterations, is the best, and the improvements installed have proven of effective and economical. Owing to the greatly increased cost of material and labor, during the past year, the cost of the mill has exceeded the estimate considerably. The expenditure for same up to December 31st, 1917, being \$1,201,797.52; but we believe we have reason to congratulate ourselves that, under the prevailing conditions, we have been enabled to complete the mill, and that we now possess a most up-to-date and efficient factory.

Permanent Improvements

The total expenditures for the year for permanent improvements amounted to \$1,105,301.00, the greater part of which was incurred on account of the enlargement of the estate and included the following items:

Land, Clearing \$ 7,664.36
New Land Plowed 16,168.04
Irrigation Ditches 8,615.67
Buildings 31,180.92
Mill Machinery 874,552.25
Mill Buildings 146,784.67
Roadways and Portable Track 17,191.86
Bridges 24,567.57
Artesian Wells 8,845.44

The largest amount comes under the head of Mill Machinery and Mill Buildings, which are now practically all completed.

Besides the above we have purchased a new 30-ton locomotive and material for fifty extra cars. We have also added another mile and a half of portable track to our equipment, in order to facilitate the handling of the larger crops.

Apart from the usual enlargement and improvement of old quarters, thirteen new houses, containing 181 rooms, with bath and wash-house for laborers, have been built. A wing containing two spacious wards, has been added to our Hospital, and a bungalow built for a skilled employee.

Three new artesian wells have been bored at the mill, providing an ample supply of water for the new mill and building house.

A rearrangement and enlargement of

four mill yards has been effected, giving sufficient track space for the increased number of cane cars required when operating our two mills simultaneously.

The expensive clearing of new lands has been completed, and most of the available land has been plowed.

Summing up the principal and extraordinary items of our financial operations during the year, and comparing our position at the beginning and close of the year, we have:

We had a credit with our agent on December 31st, 1916, of \$ 806,462.28
Net receipts for sugar and molasses were 3,067,838.34
\$4,474,300.62

We expended:

Permanent improvements \$1,466,384.10
Dividends, 12% 720,000.00
Bonus to employees 456,507.10
Crops 1,867,086.18
\$4,509,977.38

leaving a debit balance due our agents of \$28,019.09, which is much more than offset by the value of outstanding sugars and molasses, amounting to \$549,318.34. At the same time I might mention that ample amounts have been written off to cover depreciation for the year.

"We have been fairly well supplied with labor, and have had no disturbances among the workmen.

The large and expensive improvements in connection with the extension of the plantation are now about completed, and there should be no larger expenditures on this account during 1918. The necessity for a new and up-to-date hospital, as well as for a more modern and commodious store building, may, however, compel us to carry out contemplated improvements in these directions in a near future.

"With the estate in splendid condition, and full facilities provided for taking care of larger crops, looking forward, with the present prospects for good market conditions, there can be no other reasonable expectation but that the coming year will be a prosperous one."

Waiahole Project Success

Under the head of Waiahole aqueduct the manager says that the extension to its terminal point in Honolulu, as well as the additional water lead in Waiahole, were finished last spring, completing the aqueduct in its entire length.

Owing to an extremely dry summer, with hardly any rain in the mountains, the flow through the tunnels has been comparatively small during the latter part of the year, but is now, after recent rains, increasing in volume. A table shows the amount of water delivered through the tunnels each month and gives the following totals: Jan. 1917, 1474; February 294.9; March 1655; April 1400.2; May 1301.4; June 1172.2; July 971.5; August 825.2; September 798.4; October 710.9; November 928.3; and December 904.08.

In order to increase the water supply from the Waiahole side during the dry summer months the company is preparing to install a 3,000,000 gallon pumping plant to be electrically driven at an elevation of 450 feet. Waiahole, in order to lift the available water in its locality, which, of course, taken, has a minimum flow of 4,500,000 gallons into the tunnel at 750 feet, a distance of 1700 feet. This plant is expected to be in operation the first of next August. Its estimated cost is \$25,000 and the power will be furnished by the Hawaiian Electric Company.

Report of President

In his report, President E. J. Lowrey says the chief accomplishments of the company during the last two years have been the material enlargement of the field area, made possible by the beneficial supply of mountain waters and the installation of the new mill to take care of the greater yield. Both undertakings have been successfully completed and the company is now in a position to harvest the full reward of many years of enterprising toil.

He tells of the assignment of the company's leasehold on Ford Island to the government, which required the land for its aviation field and turning it to food conservation says the company has lost all practical aid and encouragement to the administration in every possible respect.

The directors have contributed \$1500 to the Red Cross in six monthly payments of \$250 each and subscribed to \$50,000 of Liberty Loan Bonds.

Owing to the uncertainty of shipping facilities under the conditions obtaining at present, the board concluded an arrangement with the Oahu Railway & Land Company, whereby the latter is supplying the company with additional sugar warehouses facilities up to 8000 tons at its Honolulu terminal.

The board has at present under consideration the erection of a new store building of fireproof construction, as well as the building of a new hospital with modern equipment. Both projects are necessitated by, and will be in keeping with the growth of the plantation.

The profit and loss account shows dividends paid out at the rate of twelve percent, \$720,000, profit balance for the year \$1,019,957.10 and a balance forward to next year of \$2,221,868.92.

Waimanalo May Get Bigger Outturn Than Last Season

Estimate Is Greater Than Previous One and Manager Says Preliminary Figures May Be Exceeded By Actual Results

Waimanalo Sugar Company last year exceeded its crop estimate 853 tons with a total output of 4853.53. As against an estimate of 4000 tons for the 1917 crop the 1918 crop was estimated by the manager in November last at 4600 tons but in his report under date of January 24, Mr. George Chalmers, the manager, says, "and from the amount of cane on the ground, provided the juice was up to the normal, it ought to somewhat exceed the above estimate." Surely this does not look like "Waimanalo Hard Hit by Drought, 1918 cane poor." It is true the coming crop will not be the bumper one that was expected but there is a strong possibility it will reach the 1917 outturn, despite the drought, and it is well up to the average crop.

Manager's Report

In his report Manager Chalmers, at the meeting Wednesday in the offices of C. Brewer & Company, agent, told the stockholders in part as follows:

"The whole of this crop looked well up to the end of last May and had every appearance then of being a bumper crop; the drought commenced in June and kept on until the middle of October, which gave the whole crop a setback when it should have been making the best growth. It has done well since June in October and is still growing. Not more than 20% of the whole crop has tasseled, so it ought to make considerable growth yet on anything that stands over for a few months.

"We commenced grinding on the 11th of this month and the juice is miserable—the worst I have ever seen. We are at least losing one ton of sugar per acre under normal conditions, and if this keeps up long the loss will be serious. I attribute the fault for the retarding of the cane to the dry weather it experienced during the summer months, and the present low density to the late continuous rains, which have resulted in a rank growth.

Crop 1919

"For this crop we have planted 50 acres and have 816 acres of Long Rotations, with 208 acres of unirrigated Planters' cane, and may have 125 acres of Short Rotations, making a total of 1329 acres. This crop is all looking well at present writing and further advanced than is general at this time of the year, however, everything depends on next summer. If the weather is all right there will be a good crop. I do not consider it good policy to estimate too early."

With a capital stock of \$252,000 Waimanalo showed net earnings for the year of \$205,954.77 and paid eighty percent dividends for the year, \$201,600. There is a net balance brought forward of \$408,508.28.

NEW LEASE WANTED BY SUGAR COMPANY

Application of the American Sugar Company for a new lease on approximately 24,000 acres of land on the Island of Molokai that it has been holding on a lease which expired in January is being considered, and an inspection of the tract is to be made by Land Commissioner R. G. Rivenburgh, Sam Kanakana of the survey office and W. H. C. Campbell of the land board who have gone to Molokai. The application is for a period of twelve years and the tract has been held at a rental of \$1200 a year.

Application has also been made for the homesteading of what is called the Kalanala portion of the land which has an area of about 6747 acres. Not all of this would be homesteaded, it was stated at the land office, as a considerable portion would be held as a forest reserve.

SUGAR IN LONDON

The trade has been principally concerned with obtaining the new sugar scheme, and has been enabled to carry out their part in most cases. Business in raw sugar has been limited to an inquiry for low grades, and a good demand for West Indian molasses, which companies favorably in price with low Trenele, and is usable in a variety of ways; the packages are small barrels weighing about 5 cwt. each, and are therefore not difficult to handle.

The refined market continues steady. Distribution is now proceeding under the terms of the new system of vouchers which became operative on the 1st of January. The supply, so far, has been confined to good granulated and cubes, the product chiefly on the home refineries.

British Prices are in good request and a fair supply has been obtained at fairly rates—Produce Markets Review, Jan. 15, 1918.

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OLOWAHU FEELS BAD EFFECT OF DROUGHT

Despite Bad Weather Estimate Is Less Than Ten Percent Below That of Last Year

Owing to the drought of last year Manager Alex. Valentine of the Olowahu Company estimates the 1918 crop at 1700 tons as against a preliminary estimate of 1850 tons for last year's crop, which actually amounted to 1974.4 tons. These figures were given to the stockholders at the annual meeting of the company at the offices of its agent, C. Brewer & Company Wednesday.

Last year Olowahu began harvesting the crop January 26 and finished the grind August 10. This year the grind started January 11 and thus far all operations have proceeded smoothly. The crop suffered severely from the drought, the manager says in his report and continues:

Effect of Drought

"For several months we could not give the cane sufficient water to promote normal growth, and on some of the gravelly fields it was hard to keep the cane from drying up. The short rotations were late on account of late harvesting of the previous crop, and shortage of water gave little opportunity to force the growth. Since the rains in December the cane has made some growth which will increase as the weather becomes warmer. A series of short thunderstorms throughout this month has kept the cane too green for harvesting, and has had a bad effect on the juices. The area harvested to date has given a good fair yield, but not the yield it should have been under normal growing conditions.

Our estimate for the crop is 1700 tons of sugar.

Crop 1919

"This crop consists of: 84 acres of Planters' cane 84 acres
Long rotation cane 137
Planters' cane (Plant) 43 1/2

Total 264 1/2 acres
In addition to the above we will have about the usual area of short rotations.

"On account of the drought some of the fields were planted very late. Since the rains in December the cane has come along very well and with favorable weather conditions this year should give a good average crop.

"Fourteen acres of new land have been planted for this crop, thirteen of which is part of land purchased in the course of the year.

Mill and Boiling House

"The extensive improvements made in the boiling house in the latter part of 1916, as detailed in my last annual report, proved very satisfactory in operation during the past grinding season.

"In the past few months we have installed an additional 7x20" boiler, and rebuilt the furnaces of the existing two boilers; the evaporators have been raised three feet, a 6" belt added to the last cell, and the vapor piping to the condenser increased in size from 12" to 24". A new condenser for the evaporator has also been installed. In the short time we have been grinding we have found that these improvements are improving the work of both the mill and the boiling house.

Ditch Improvements

"Since last July we have relocated the main irrigation ditches in the Olowahu gulch, raised the power station in the gulch two feet, and built new concrete main water heads in the gulch. The east side ditch is 3000 feet long and is lined with 2 1/2 inches of concrete and the sides and bottom. This ditch was put in use late in December. The west side ditch at Olowahu is 4200 feet long. It is opened the full length and the concrete lining is completed to 2700 feet. A smaller ditch, 1150 feet long, has also been dug to connect with the east side ditch for the purpose of irrigating low past fields, and this will be completed when the Avalon ditch is finished. These improvements will effect a great saving of water especially at times when the streams are low.

Weather

"A prolonged drought, the worst in many years, lasted from April till late in December. The rainfall at the Olowahu watershed was 42 inches, and at the mill 38.20 inches, most of the rain fall being in the first three months and the last two months of the year.

"The rainfall this year to date has been 11.18 inches.

Dividends of twenty-four percent were paid in the year out of a net profit of \$33,808.07 and \$57,708.07 and to the balance carried forward with the federal income taxes and "War Excess Profits Taxes" to be paid.

Olowahu's estimate for next year is above the average crop of the past twelve years.

Sugar has always sold higher in Italy than in any other European country. We have known ordinary consumers to pay twenty cents a pound while we in America were getting it for six cents a pound. The cable announces that the government has fixed the maximum price of sugar sold by factories and refineries at 120 liras per quintal, or about 10.5 cents a pound. This is for white crystallized and does not include the government manufacturer and other taxes. Possibly it will cost twenty-four cents a pound by the time it reaches the consumer.

All Shipping Plans Go By Board and Hawaii Waits

Government Requirements For Moving Troops Upset Tentative Arrangements Especially For Movement To East

Sugar shipments from the Islands to the mainland wait, for a time at least, for a sort of "hand to mouth affair." As to facilities for cargoes to San Francisco there is some little certainty but shipments of Eastern sugars are completely up in the air.

Just when it was thought that every thing was nicely arranged for the movement of sugar for the Eastern refiners through the canal instead of aroundland, thus saving the Island producers \$7.21 a ton or more than a million and a half dollars on the year's outturn, the "beans are spilled" again. No one knows just how sugar is to go East, not even the shipping board which at best can only say there are no prospects of any immediate shipments through the canal.

Nation's Needs First

There is no complaint being voiced by Hawaiian producers. They are taking their disappointments in the same philosophical way which they took former disappointments and the taking off of freight steamers. This time the question for the disappointment is the urgent need of the nation for all transportation and all possible bottoms for moving soldiers and supplies from the east coast to France. This has resulted in the upsetting of practically all tentative plans for sugar movements, especially for Eastern sugar. Vessels which it had been expected would soon load here for New York will not. Some will go direct from the yards to the Atlantic instead of bringing coal to and taking sugar from here. Others will come here with coal and take sugar to San Francisco only.

At the office of the shipping board yesterday C. P. Morse said he believed the matter of getting sugar to San Francisco would be satisfactorily cared for but he could offer little hope as to vessels for Eastern shipments in the near future. Unfortunately, he said, he was not able to tell of what plans were under consideration by the shipping board.

As to the remaining Matson liners, the freight carriers, no definite announcement have been received here since the announcement was made the government would take a million tons of shipping from coastwise, South American and Pacific trade. This added to the uncertainty as to shipments to Crockett.

Two Vessels Coming

Two vessels, as to which there has been some uncertainty as to come here soon and perhaps three. The two that are certain are the Sacramento and the Boston. The Albatross may come but it is expected she will go to the Atlantic direct. The Sacramento will take sugar to San Francisco instead of to New York. What the Boston will do has not been announced but from express signs from the shipping board it is in some doubt whether she will also go to San Francisco.

Loyalty Is Shown

"We must meet the demands of the war without complaint," is the generally voiced sentiment here. Mr. Morse said yesterday it had been gratifying to note the cheerful acquiescence on the part of the people of Hawaii even in cases of grave and costly disappointments.

Conditions remain unchanged. The food administration wants Hawaiian sugar and will do all it can, with the cooperation of the shipping board, to facilitate its movement. On the other hand the movement of troops and supplies for them is the first requisite of the war. All Hawaii can expect is that the best that can be done for the sugar crop will be done and that something definite may be evolved at an early date. Meantime there are now indications the crop will pile up to some extent before such arrangements can be made.

LITTLE DAMAGE IS DONE LOUISIANA CROP

NEW ORLEANS, February 2.—The weather during the past week has been sufficiently normal and favorable to permit such work as is usually contemplated for this part of the year in the Louisiana sugar district. While there is in some places too much moisture in the land to allow the spring plowing and planting to go on unimpeded, the conditions in general have been devoid of any untoward features.

The succession of severe frozes previously reported seems to have been broken and for some two days of the week under review the Louisiana sugar district experienced temperatures that were almost summer like, this being followed by cooler but not very cold weather. No damage from the low temperatures of January seems to have been reported.

THEY MAKE YOU FEEL GOOD.

The pleasant purgative effect experienced after taking Chamberlain's Tablets and the healthy condition of body and mind to which they contribute, makes one feel that living is worth while. For sale by all dealers. Benson, Smith & Co., Ltd., agents for Hawaii. Advt.

PIONEER HAS GOOD YEAR BUT DROUGHT REDUCES ESTIMATES FOR NEXT CROP

Damage Estimated At More Than Twelve Percent — Irrigation Project Will Tend To Prevent Repetition

Pioneer Mill Company's estimated crop for 1918 is between four and five thousand tons below the crop actually harvested in 1917 and 3500 to 4000 tons under the preliminary estimates of last year which was exceeded by 1785 tons. The estimate is 28,500 to 29,000 tons as against last year's estimate of 32,500 and crop of 32,278.5 tons. The reason for the reduced estimate is to be found in last year's drought. The annual reports of the company were given to the stockholders at the annual meeting which was held yesterday. Speaking of conditions the manager in his report said in part:

"At present, the water in all our ditches is still low, in proportion to the daily average flow of the Honokaa Ditch, which is less than ten million gallons. Therefore, we cannot derive any benefit from our hydro-electric plants, and the steam turbine has to furnish the necessary power for the pumps and the mill; this, naturally, is the cause of another increase of operation expenses.

Crop 1918

"This crop had a late start, and its planting was not finished before the end of November, 1916. During the first four months this crop did well, but it suffered afterwards from the long drought that followed and retarded its growth.

"We commenced grinding this crop on November 27, 1917, and up to January 22 (inclusive), have harvested 48,042.752 tons of cane from 1080 acres and manufactured 6109 tons of sugar. The quality of the juices is about the same as during the same period of last year; it took 7.60 tons of cane to manufacture one ton of sugar. The fields harvested so far have come up to my first estimate, but as the cane has not tassel very much, I fear the juice will not be as good as last year, and my estimate, at present, is therefore from 28,500 to 29,000 tons of sugar.

Crop 1919

"This crop consists of 873.50 acres of plant cane and 3,457.25 acres of rotations, a total of 4,330.75 acres. Owing to the exceptionally dry weather, it had a poor start, and the planting and tattering was finished very late. However, the light rains we had during the last six or eight weeks helped a good deal, and at present the fields look well, although behind in growth. As large areas of the cane are not shaded in, and the rains have favored the growth of weeds and grass, a considerable amount of weeding will have to be done.

Factory

"The factory has done good work during the past season. Unfortunately, the installation of a number of improvements intended for this season has been delayed owing to the late arrival of material. The new boilers will be done.

Motor Ship Saved

The production of sugar in France during the month of December was 121,095 tons as against 104,007 tons last year. The tonnage delivered was 31,800 while 42,800 were delivered last year.

Honduras has had the rain longer state in its face and that means that the sugar crop will be reduced by twenty five percent. Nicaragua, on the other hand, claims that its crop prospects are fine.

A Washington paper reports that the prices of sugar today should not stagger us, for in 1919 a London merchant went to Venice, the sugar center in that day, and bought 100,000 pounds and paid forty three cents a pound for his previous wares. Now, when you add freight and other expenses, sugar at that time must have cost high on seventy cents a pound. For centuries sugar was considered a medicine and doted out by apothecaries but when tea began to fasten itself upon the palates of men, sugar came down fifty pence. Three cheers for tea.

A state wide campaign is on in Colorado to increase the beet acreage for 1918. The sugar companies with the State and Federal authorities are working at the plan and a statement has been issued by a well-known beet sugar expert. It is pointed out that in the matter of sugar Germany is practically independent, and prior to the war was very dependent on Germany for her beet fields. England and France needed practically three million tons, and with many factories in France in the hands of Germany it is at once apparent what sugar is needed from other sources. The statement also adds that the West must consume less sugar and produce more in war times, while in peace times the West must consume more and produce more. The statement makes a great plea to the farmer showing him the utter futility of trying to meet this situation without every one doing team work and none helping in the drive. The frosts impeded the work in Colorado so the exchanges say and found forty percent of the beets in the ground when Jack Frost made his first drive.

Gen. Edward R. Blanchard, U. S. R., awaiting his sailing for Fort-Meyer, Virginia, next Saturday, is in the city with Mrs. Blanchard. Lieutenant Blanchard has been assigned to the 30th Engineers. Mrs. Blanchard will return Saturday to her home in Hauku, Maui.

Virginia R. Leuberg and E. G. Danenberg, guardians of Alexander Black, field leuberg, a minor, filed their annual account in the circuit court yesterday. In their statement the guardians charge themselves with \$68,038 and ask to be allowed \$26,569. Each on hand amounts to 2,400 according to the report.

The sugar machinery is being exported from the United States in much larger quantities than ever is shown by the report of the year ending June 30, 1917. Machinery exported for that year was valued at \$11,000,000 while the year before it was only \$6,000,000 and the year previous to that only \$2,000,000. The planter has from an early day always been a medium through which sugar manufacturers and machinery producers were brought together, and makes it slow to all interested in wishing prosperity and progress to all parties concerned.

When the vessel will sail homeward has not been definitely announced.

The Esperanza was on her maiden voyage from Portland, Oregon to Shanghai, and was taking a full cargo of lumber to the latter port. When within a short distance of Yokohama, her engines failed, and she drifted to the coast of China prefecture, off Yokohama, where she was later towed into safety by a tug from the Yokohama Dock Yard.

A White ship drifting out to sea, it was feared by her twenty-one members of the crew that she would go aground but through the efforts of G. H. Reid more, U. S. consul general at Yokohama, the tug was sent out, which finally towed the distressed schooner to safety.

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MOTOR SHIP SAVED NEAR JAPAN COAST

Engines Fail Esperanza - After Long Voyage From Portland To Near Yokohama

With her engines disabled, her rudder broken and her propeller loosened, the American ship Esperanza, of 1601 tons, commanded by Capt. Thomas E. Dresden, was recently towed into Yokohama, where she is being repaired, preparatory to returning home.

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